

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A device such as an optical isolator, attenuator, circulator or switch including a combination of birefringent prisms with parallel optic axes for capable of dividing an input beam into polarized beams and combining polarized beams into an output beam.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A device such as an optical isolator, attenuator, circulator or switch including a combination of birefringent prisms with parallel optic axes for capable of dividing an input beam into parallel polarized beams and combining parallel polarized beams into an output beam.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) A device such as an optical isolator, attenuator, circulator or switch, including a first combination of birefringent prisms with parallel optic axes for dividing an optical beam into parallel polarized beams; of claim 1 further comprising a second combination of birefringent prisms with parallel optic axes for combining parallel polarized beams into an output beam, and a polarization changer disposed between said first combination of birefringent prisms and said second combination of birefringent prisms.

6. (Currently Amended) A device such as an optical circulator or switch including a first combination of birefringent prisms with parallel optic axes for dividing an optical beam into parallel polarized beams; of claim 3 further comprising a second combination of birefringent prisms with parallel optic axes for combining parallel polarized beams into an output beam, a polarization changer disposed between said first combination of birefringent prisms and said second combination of birefringent prisms, and a third combination of birefringent prisms with parallel optic axes disposed between said polarization changer and said second combination of birefringent prisms.

7. (Currently Amended) An optical device as described in ~~claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6~~ claim 1, wherein prisms of at least one combination of birefringent prisms are arranged about at least one reflector or refractor.

8. (Currently Amended) An optical device as described in ~~claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7~~ claim 1, wherein prisms of at least one combination of birefringent prisms are arranged about a polarization changer.

9. (Currently Amended) An optical isolator as described in ~~claims 5, 6, or 7~~ claim 5, wherein at least one polarization changer is a nonreciprocal polarization changer.

10. (Currently Amended) An optical attenuator as described in ~~claims 5, 7, or 8~~ claim 5, wherein at least one polarization changer is a reciprocal polarization changer.

11. (Currently Amended) An optical circulator as described in ~~claims 5, 6, 7 or 8~~ claim 5, wherein at least one polarization changer is a nonreciprocal polarization changer.

12. (Currently Amended) An optical switch as described in ~~claims 5, 6, 7 or 8~~ claim 5, wherein at least one polarization changer is a reciprocal polarization changer.